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D/OCI- 1198-75 (1)

15 September 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Current Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Comments on Clements' Letter to DCI

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1. First some background--In early June, Charles Sorells of ISA visited [REDACTED] to discuss coverage of Soviet activity in the Middle East. [REDACTED] invited [REDACTED] to participate. Sorells wanted a periodic roundup on what the Soviets were doing; [REDACTED] was cool toward the idea and offered instead some present CIA publications that include material on the subject. For our part, we added Sorells to the distribution list for the USSR and EE Staff Notes. This did not satisfy Sorells who warned [REDACTED] last month that higher level intervention on behalf of a new publication obviously was needed. I presume the Clements letter is the result.

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2. The idea of periodic roundups is not without merit, however, and [REDACTED] had explored the idea of doing one on the Soviets and the Middle East more than a year ago. We therefore began experimenting with a weekly annex to our Staff Notes summarizing Soviet activities in one of four major areas of the world--US, Far East, Middle East and Europe. Every fourth week, in other words, we plan to cover Soviet activities in the Middle East. We have only done three annexes so far and we have surely not settled on the format or indeed the worth of the project, but I believe it is promising. The reaction, from [REDACTED] for instance, has been good--perhaps in part because it goes a way toward meeting Sorells' request. In its present form, however, it does not come near satisfying the requirements for substantive coverage listed in the Clements letter.

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*NIB answer?*

3. As for the questions raised by the DDI: The production of another periodical runs counter to our efforts to consolidate publications and to aim specific memoranda at specific consumers. If we wished to avoid a new periodical, we could try to beef-up our Staff Notes Annex along the lines described in Clements' letter. We would need substantial contributions by OSR and OER. No bets, however, that this would be enough. The scope suggested by Secretary Clements is very broad and on many of the subjects there will be little to be said from month to month. As he says, there should be flexibility in the frequency of issuance and the content. Finally, it hardly needs be said that production of this roundup will not be cheap--either in terms of dollars or analyst time. We have had some experience with a similar project on Sino-Soviet relations; it took a lot of work by a lot of people.

4. The first question on organization of the task is: Are we producing an inter- or intra-agency product. If the former (and Clements refers to a "national intelligence publication"), I assume the NIO ought to be more deeply involved and the work parcelled out to various other members of the community. If the latter, I suggest the DDI organize a production team with membership from the appropriate offices and a representative from the DDO. Clements' questions are heavily military which would point the finger at OSR for management responsibility, but I frankly feel OCI should volunteer. Traditionally, we have assumed responsibility for these "across-the-board" papers and I think we could do the best job.

5. If this paper is produced within the DDI, I urge that it be thought of not just as an attempt to meet the request of a consumer, but as an experiment in the team production of intelligence. This means the offices involved will not simply send a contribution to the project manager once a month. No one need spend full time on the project, but the designated people should be prepared to meet periodically to discuss the evidence, consider who should do what and how for the next month's publication, and generally have the project on their

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minds throughout the month. For some of these meetings it would be useful to have representatives of the "consumers" present. This raises the cost of the project, of course, but the benefits might extend well beyond the particular publication under consideration.



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Acting Chief, USSR & Eastern  
Europe Division

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| <b>TRANSMITTAL SLIP</b>            |                  | DATE<br>15 Sep 75 |
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| ROOM NO.                           | BUILDING         |                   |
| REMARKS:                           |                  |                   |
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FORM NO. 241 1 FEB 55 REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED. (47)

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| SEC. CL.<br><b>S</b>   |                                | ORIGIN<br><b>DDI</b> |                                | CONTROL NO.<br><b>DOCI-1198-75(1)</b> |  |
| DATE OF DOC<br><b>11 Sep 75</b>  | DATE REC'D<br><b>12 Sep 75</b> | DATE OUT             | SUSPENSE DATE<br><b>17 Sep</b> | CROSS REFERENCE OR<br>POINT OF FILING |  |
| TO: <b>D/OCI</b>   |                                |                      |                                | ROUTING                               |  |
| FROM: <b>Proctor, DDI</b>  |                                |                      |                                | DATE SENT<br><b>12 Sep</b>            |  |
| SUBJ: <b>Report on Soviet Activities in the Middle East</b>  |                                |                      |                                | Action: <b>USSR-EE</b>                |  |
| Att: <b>letter from Sec Clements (DoD) requesting periodic report on Sov activities related to Middle East</b> |                                |                      |                                | <b>Replied 15 Sept</b>                |  |
| ACTION REQSTD: <b>Comments &amp; suggestions on a periodical publication as proposed by Clements</b>           |                                |                      |                                | <b>(DOCI-1198-75(1))</b>              |  |
| COURIER NO.  | ANSWERED                       | NO REPLY             |                                | <b>5</b>                              |  |